



## Mark Twain National Forest 2012 Highlights

Besides managing our first summer wildfire season in decades, in 2012 we **made progress** on several major projects that will significantly contribute to restoring Missouri's great outdoors. These projects were made possible by the continued support of our neighboring communities and partners. Thank you, and please join us in **celebrating our joint success!**



*David Whittekiend*, Forest Supervisor

*Teresa Chase*, Deputy Forest Supervisor

### [Restoring Missouri Pine Oak Woodland in Southern Missouri](#)

Working with USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station and Central Hardwoods Joint Venture, we established how we will monitor on-the-ground work **to restore approximately 116,000 acres of shortleaf pine and oak woodland**. This is the **first year of a 10-year project** that we hope will protect critical biological diversity and stimulate local economies.

### [Clean, Usable and Navigable Water](#)

One of our priority watersheds is Mill Creek near Rolla, one of only six wild trout streams in Missouri. It includes federally-listed endangered species **Indiana and gray bats**, and designated critical habitat for **Hines Emerald Dragonfly**.

Working with **Missouri Departments of Transportation and Conservation**, we are working on a design at Highway AA to allow fish free movement. Through a partnership with **University of Missouri Science and Technology** and **Missouri Department of Conservation**, aquatic surveys over summer also identified two state listed fish species, the **least darter** and **plains top minnow**.



### **Growing and Restoring More Critical Habitat**

We also made progress providing habitat for other endangered species: **Ozark Hellbender, Tumbling Creek Cave Snail and Running Buffalo Clover**.

Through our **ongoing partnerships**, we are monitoring the progress of each species while providing critical habitat and habitat protection: installing bat-friendly gates, and restoring a cave previously used as a 1960's seismic station.

Working with **Bat Conservation International, Cave Research Foundation** and **AmeriCorps-St. Louis**, we also built special bat gates for gray bat maternity colonies; a "flyover gate" and "chute" style gate with bay



window. (photo)

### [Summer 2012 Was a Spring Fire Season That Didn't Seem to End](#)

We usually have two fire seasons, one in spring, the second one in fall. Summer 2012, we also had **a summer wildfire season, the first one in decades,\*\*\*** (**link highlight to first story**) with more than 50 wildfires burning more than 4,000 acres of public and private land:

[Fire Burns in Mark Twain National Forest](#)

[Missouri Radio Network interview with Fire Manager Jody Eberly](#)



## Studies Continue on Impacts of Eastern Missouri's Viburnum Trend Lead Mining

**As the largest lead producer in US**, Missouri has a history of lead production within Mark Twain National Forest's Salem and Potosi Ranger Districts. During 2012, we completed a preliminary assessment and site inspection to clarify the possible impact of past lead production on public lands in the Viburnum Trend. **This is the first step in a series of studies** required under federal law to restore resources to their original condition.

## Secure Rural Schools Resource Advisory Committee Approves Several Local Projects

During 2012, Missouri's Secure Rural Schools Act Resource Advisory Committee for Douglas, Oregon, Shannon, Ripley and Dent Counties recommended approximately **\$102,000 for several county improvement projects**. They included road maintenance in Oregon and Dent counties; removing debris in Oregon, Shannon and Douglas counties; road clearing and removing invasive species in Douglas County and Greer Spring Mill stabilization in Oregon County.

## More Stewardship Contracts Facilitate Getting More Work Done Efficiently

**Stewardship contracting helps interested service providers** exchange their services for our goods over a longer period of time. It is a relatively new tool to us and should help us get more restoration work completed faster, and less expensively. Working with timber industry partners, we had **4 stewardship proposals approved and awarded three stewardship contracts**.

## 2012 Approved Projects through National Environmental Policy Act

We also made **67 decisions** through the National Environmental Policy Act process, which involves working with our neighbors and interested publics to identify the best approaches and solutions. In addition to authorizing these projects, these decisions led to a **myriad of other projects** including glade, prairie and fen restoration; forest health improvement; ATV trails maintenance and construction; access improvements to Eleven Point River; non-native invasive plants control, tornado-damaged areas salvage, timber products production and providing private landowners access.



## Working with Lincoln University to Propagate and Plant Native Plants

A **special thank you** to our wonderful partners and volunteers, including **Lincoln University's Native Plants Program, Meramec Hills Missouri Master Naturalists** and volunteers (photo) who spent Earth Day April 22, 2012 planting a pollinator garden in front of our headquarters office in Rolla.

**Lincoln University** this year also collected seeds from Western Star Savanna, near Rolla, and a glade restoration area near Ava as part of our ongoing partnership to plant native plants they propagate in areas we are restoring, as well as university demonstration gardens and our Rolla and Ava offices.

## Special Thanks to Our Wonderful Volunteers!

**Total Volunteer Hours** Contributed in 2012: **517,570 hours** equivalent to **13 full time people**:

- **Partnerships:** 2 full time people.
- **Mingo Job Corps:** 1 full time person.
- **Youth Conservation Corps:** 7 students, almost 1 full time person.
- **In photo, volunteers at Mill Creek.**

## Mark Twain National Forest 4.4% Missouri Land Base



Mark Twain National Forest is the **largest public land manager in Missouri**, with 1.5 million acres scattered throughout **29 counties** in southern and central Missouri. **90%** of property within the forest's administrative boundaries are **privately-owned**. Established in 1939, Mark Twain National Forest continues to **restore Missouri's great outdoors and maintain a healthy, working forest**. Visit Mark Twain National Forest Online: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/mtnf>.

